

Centre for Canadian Studies Programme
Visit of the Québec Minister

CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE

**MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND LA FRANCOPHONIE, Government
of Québec**

**Meeting with Dr. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice-Chancellor, SNDT University and address
to the students**

On Monday, 12th February 2018, 10.30am CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE, Minister of International Affairs and La Francophonie, Ministry of International Affairs and La Francophonie (MRIF), Québec, Canada along with MR. DOMINIC MARCOTTE, Consul & Director, Bureau du Québec, Mumbai and Ms. Sonia Ziade, Political Officer, Ministry of International Affairs and La Francophonie (MRIF), Québec Ms. Dnyaneshwari Talpade, Public Affairs, Culture and Education Advisor, Bureau du Québec, Mr. Jessie Lepine-Malone, International Affairs Advisor, Ministry of International Affairs and La Francophonie (MRIF), Québec paid visit to SNDT Women's University.

The programme began with the University song and welcome speech by Dr Pratima Tatke, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies who shared the activities of the Centre and SNDTWU collaborations with university and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in India and Canada. Honorable Vice Chancellor, SNDTWU, Prof. Wanjari welcomed the délégation and expressed the need to be global while remaining locally relevant. Prof V. N. Magre, Pro Vice Chancellor SNDTWU introduced the Minister followed by the lecture by the Minister.

Minister Christine St-Pierre shared that 58% of students enrolled in higher education are women. Women earn 60% of graduate and undergraduate university degrees. As a result, growing numbers of women throughout the labour market and women comprise over half Québec's workforce. The women's employment rate in 2012 was 57%, up from 37% in 1976. And women's average hourly wage is 90% that of men, versus 84% when Québec's Pay Equity Act came into force in 1997. Sharing her government's commitments for human rights stated that respecting human rights is one of our society's fundamental values. She said that last year Montréal was named "best student city" in the world, beating out London and Paris, by QS Best Student Cities 2017. She added that they are always happy to welcome more international students—including, of course, more Indian students and will always be happy to see more female students.

Post her lecture, students asked various questions to the Minister. Dr. Mira K. Desai, Coordinator-International Linkages, SNDTWU proposed the vote of thanks. The programme ended with national anthem.